

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00855 290911Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
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R 290814Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7595
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USING BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0855

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, PDIP, TC, US, YS
SUBJ: VISIT OF PDRY PRIME MINISTER AND/US/PDRY RELATIONS

REFS: (A) 77 ABU DHABI 1692, (B) 77 STATE 244210

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PDRY PRIMIN ALI NASSER MUHAMMAD PAID
TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO UAE MARCH 25-27. HIS DELEGATION INCLUDED
FONMIN MUHAMMAD SALIH MUTIE, PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER HAIDAR
ABU BAKR, AND MININFO AHMAD SALIM OBAID. MUHAMMAD AND MUTIE
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WERE RECEIVED BY UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID (WHO HAD HIMSELF JUST
RETURNED FROM TALKS WITH KING KHALID IN SAUDI ARABIA) AND HELD
FORMAL TALKS WITH UAEG OFFICIALS LED BY PRIMIN SHAIKH MAKTOUM BIN
RASHID AND INCLUDING MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMATION,
PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING, ELECTRICITY AND WATER, AND DIRECTOR
OF ABU DHABI FUND.

2. ACCORDING UAE PRESS, TWO SIDES DISCUSSED BILATERAL TIES AND SITUATION IN GULF AND ARAB REGIONS GENERALLY. NO MENTION OF HORN OF AFRICA. UAE FORMER SUWAIDI QUOTED AS STATING "VIEWS WERE IDENTICAL ON ALL THE ISSUES DISCUSSED". ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT AGREED SEND A TEAM TO ADEN WITHIN NEW FEW MONTHS TO STUDY TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF SEVERAL POTENTIAL PROJECTS INCLUDING SECOND PHASE OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PLAN, ADEN REFINERY, ADEN HARBOR EXPANSION, AND FISHERIES FOR WHICH UAE FINANCING BEING SOUGHT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. PDY VISIT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT REACHED LAST JUNE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS TO INCREASE BILATERAL COOPERATION AND TO MEET EVERY SIX MONTHS FOR THIS PURPOSE (REF A). DURING BRIEF MEETING WITH SUWAIDI PRIOR MY INTRODUCING ARAB-AMERICAN COUNCIL MISSION, HE TOLD ME THAT SOUTH YEMENIS WERE ESSENTIALLY ON GOODWILL MISSION AND THAT NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE RESULTED FROM TALKS. NO AGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD OCCURRED AND NO NEW UAE AID COMMITMENTS HAD BEEN MADE.

4. SUWAIDI THEN ASKED ABOUT CURRENT STATUS US-PDY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, EXPLAINING THAT PDY OFFICIALS HAD ALLEGED THESE WERE IN PROCESS OF MOVING TOWARD RESTORATION. HE RECALLED THAT DURING HIS TALKS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY AHERTON LAST OCTOBER (REF B), LATTER HAD INDICATED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WERE EXPECTED. I SAID THAT I HAD NO CURRENT READING ON THIS MATTER BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO MY KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ADEN. CERTAINLY IF THERE WERE WE WOULD WISH TO CONSULT WITH OTHER FRIENDLY ARAB STATES INCLUDING UAE BEFORE TAKING SUCH A STEP. SUWAIDI WONDERED IF CURRENT PDY SUPPORT FOR SOVIET/CUBAN MILITARY ADVENTURE IN ETHIOPIA WAS A FACTOR IN DELAYING FURTHER STEPS TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS. I REPLIED THAT I CERTAINLY ASSUMED THAT THIS IS ONE OF FACTORS THAT WOULD BE LOOKED AT IN ANY REASSESSMENT OF US-PDY TIES.

5. COMMENT: WHILE TIMING OF ZAYID-KHALID MEETING JUST BEFORE ARRIVAL HERE OF PDY DELEGATION PROBABLY COINCIDENTAL, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH PDY WOULD HAVE ARISEN AND THAT SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WHICH PDY WOULD HAVE ARISEN AND THAT SAUDIS PROBABLY COUNSELLED ZAYID TO CONTINUE KEEP PDY AT ARM'S LENGTH. UAE WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE MEET PERIODICALLY WITH PDY OFFICIALS IN ORDER PROBE POSSIBLE CHANGES IN PDY REGIME'S POLITICAL OUTLOOK BUT IS UNLIKELY TO SEEK ANY CLOSER RELATIONSHIP OR MAKE ANY AID COMMITMENTS SO LONG AS ADEN PURSUES ITS PRESENT POLICIES IN HORN OF AFRICA AND SOUTHERN ARABIA. IN ANY EVENT NO SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN UAE POLICY TOWARD PDY LIKELY TO OCCUR WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH AND APPROVAL BY SAUDIS, PERHAPS OMAN, AND MAYBE OURSELVES.

DICKMAN

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